

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
TRSE-00 SSC-01 OMB-01 /068 W  
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R 131250Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2614

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5134

E.O. 11652 GDS  
TAGS: PINR, TU, IR  
SUBJ: NEW TURKISH AMBASSADOR TO IRAN, TURGUT TULUMEN

REF: (A) ANKARA 4965, (B) TURKEY PLBRL

1. TEHRAN WILL BE THE FIRST AMBASSADORIAL POST FOR TURGUT TULUMEN, AN EXCEPTIONALLY ABLE 49-YEAR-OLD DIPLOMAT WHO FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS HAS HELD ONE OF THE MFA'S HOTTEST JOBS AS DIRGEN FOR CYPRUS/GREECE AFFAIRS. HE HAS TOLD US THAT HE REGARDS THE IMPORVEMENT OF TURKISH/IRANIAN RELATIONS AS A VERY HIGH PRIORITY FOR TURKEY AND THAT HE IS DETERMINED TO DO ALL HE CAN TO BRING ABOUT IMPROVEMENT. HE PLANS TO LEAVE FOR HIS NEW POST IN AUGUST.

2. TULUMEN'S PERSONAL BACKGROUND IS THE TURKISH EQUIVALENT OF THE US EASTERN ESTABLISHMENT TYPE: BORN IN ISTANBUL, SECONDARY EDUCATION AT GALATASARY LYCEE IN ISTANBUL, AND GRADUATED FROM THE ANKARA UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE. SINCE JOINING THE FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1952, HE HAS GAINED WELL-ROUNDED EXPERIENCE IN ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, PRESS, AND NATO AFFAIRS. HIS OVERSEAS POSTS INCLUDE WASHINGTON, NICOSIA, ATHENS, AND BRUSSELS (NATO). HE HEADED THE TURKISH DEL TO THE PRELIMINARY TALKS ON MBFR IN 1973. HE  
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WAS MFA DEPUTY SPOKESMAN 1974-76.

3. WHEN HE BECAME CYPRUS/GREECE DIRGEN IN 1976, HE TOLD US WE COULD COUNT ON HIM TO WORK HARD AT REACHING A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT, AND THAT HE WOULD LOOK FOR NEW APPROACHES AND WAYS OF BEING FLEXIBLE. WE BELIEVE THAT WITHIN TURKISH POLITICAL AND POLICY LIMITATIONS, HE HAS MADE GOOD ON THAT PLEDGE. WE

HAVE NONETHELESS FOUND HIM A TOUGH BARGAINER WHO CAN BE UNYIELDING UNDER PRESSURE. WHILE HE HAS TAKEN A HARDER LINE ON SOME ISSUES THAN WE THOUGHT TUSTIFIED, HE OBVIOUSLY HAS WORKED HARD ON OTHERS TO DEVELOP A BUREAUCRATIC CONSENSUS SUPPORTING FLEXIBILITY AND COMPROMISE. MORE THAN MOST OF HIS COLLEAGUES, HE LOOKS FOR CREATIVE SOLUTIONS; AND ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS HE AND WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO KICK EACH OTHER'S IDEAS AROUND AND PRODUCE USEFUL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HIGH-LEVEL ACTION. HE CAN FLARE UP QUICKLY AND IS FRANK IN CRITICIZING US POLICY, BUT THE TONE OF HIS CRITICISM IS USUALLY ONE OF DISAPPOINTMENT, NOT RANCOR, AND HE WILL LISTEN TO REVERSE CRITICISM WITHOUT ANGER. HE CONVERYS THE GOT POSITION ACCURATELY AND APPARENTLY REPORTS OUR POSITION WELL. HE SHOWS A BROAD, COMPLETELY POLICY-ORIENTED OUTLOOK AND AN EXCELLENT KNOWLEDGE OF HOW HIS OWN GOVERNMENT WORKS.

4. TULUMEN'S PARTY SYMPATHIES ARE NOT CLEAR. IN THE CYPRUS/GREECE JOB, HE HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH GOVERNMENTS HEADED BY BOTH MAJOR PARTIES. ALTHOUGH HE DISPLAYS AN AUTOGRAPHED PICTURE OF FORMER PRIMIN DEMIREL IN HIS LIVING ROOM, HE HAS WORKED EXTREMELY WELL WITH PRIMIN ECEVIT, WHO HAS TAKEN A STRONG PERSONAL ROLE IN MAKING POLICY ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND TURKEY'S RELATIONS WITH GREECE.

5. BOTH TULUMEN AND HIS WIFE HAVE EXCELLENT COMMAND OF ENGLISH. SHE IS AN EXCELLENT HOSTESS AND A  
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WELL-BALANCED PERSON. THEIR ONLY CHILD, A DAUGHTER, 23, IS A TALENTED ARTIST (SHE JUST HAD AN EXHIBIT AT THE TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, WHICH WE HELPED ARRANGE) AND IS ABOUT TO BE MARRIED. THE TULUMENS HAVE QUIET TASTES, ENJOY ART AND CLASSICAL MUSIC, ENTERTAIN FAIRLY OFTEN, AND SHARE THE TURKISH LOVE OF CARD-PLAYING.

6. TULUMEN WILL BRING TO HIS NEW JOB INTELLIGENCE, DRIVE, ARTICULATENESS, POLICY SENSE, AND A KNOWLEDGE OF HOW TO GET THINGS DONE IN ANKARA. PROBABLY HE WILL ALSO BE BLESSED WITH ECEVIT'S BACKING. WE BELIEVE YOU WILL ENJOY KNOWING AND WORKING WITH HIM. DILLON

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINR, TU, IR, (TULUMEN, TURGUT)  
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